



**MAP**  
OF THE  
**CIMARRON VALLEY.**  
being  
The Southwestern Part of  
**COLFAX COUNTY, NEW MEXICO.**

SCALE  
0 1 2 3 4 5

**LEGEND.**

Highlands are covered with timber.  
Prairie Lands particularly those blocked off thus [ ] grow sugar beets, alfalfa, wheat, oats, barley, rye, and all fruits and vegetables common to a temperate climate.  
Mineral Lands particularly those blocked off thus [ ] contain gold, silver, copper, lead and iron.  
Colfax County is the richest county in the United States in point of natural resources containing 1000 square miles of coal land, 1000 square miles of timber land, 1500,000 acres of grazing land, 800,000 acres of farming land with two acre feet of available flood water for each acre, 100,000 acres of mineral land containing gold, silver, copper, lead and iron.  
All farming lands and mineral lands and most of the coal, timber and grazing lands lie in the Cimarron Valley.

## INSANE PREACHER IS SLAIN BY HIS PEOPLE

**Armed With a Rifle and Suffering With a Homicidal Mania, Minister Roams About Trying to Murder, Before He is at Last Killed**

Hermann, Mo., June 22.—"Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do."

Riddled with bullets and buckshot from the guns of a dozen members of his congregation, Rev. Valentine Strauss, of the German Evangelical church, returned to sanity a few seconds before his death and with his last words prayed for the kneeling and bareheaded men who had killed him. They have been exonerated.

Rev. Strauss became insane two months ago, with homicidal mania. He began roaming the country at night with a shotgun in his hands and a rifle swung over his shoulder. From crags and tree-tops he fired at men, women and children. Most of the time he missed, but on four occasions his aim was good and three men and a woman were hurt, but not seriously.

His wife and five children escaped from his mania until just before his

death yesterday, when he started from his home at Stople, fourteen miles southwest of here, for Fredericksburg, three miles from here, with intent to kill. His wife ran before him, shouting a warning to neighbors.

At the blacksmith shop of Max Knieche, where the tragedy occurred, she was but a few hundred feet in front of her husband. She shouted a warning to the men in the shop as Strauss turned and fired at her. He missed. Then he turned his rifle on Knieche. Again he missed. Knieche and a dozen armed men who were in the forge with him ran forward toward the minister, who was again preparing to fire. Six double-barreled shotguns fired their contents into his body and an equal number of rifles blazed off bullets into the mad clergyman's body.

Although wounded in a half dozen places, the dying pastor staggered across the roadway into a pasture

and sank under a large oak tree, where he had held his first religious services in Gadconade county. His slayers ran forward and surrounded him.

Strauss' head was pillowed on his wife's lap.

The light of reason flashed in his fast-glazing eyes for the first time in two months. He said a few words to his wife and then turned his eyes to the bare-headed men kneeling about him, with the still smoking guns by their sides. He looked at the weapons and then at the men, crossed his hands over his breast and died with the words of forgiveness on his lips.

Respect for the cloth kept Mr. Strauss alive for a long time. Rather than shoot him his neighbors fled and hid. In the daytime the slayer would remain at home for the most part. At night he would roam the woods, armed. Mrs. Strauss spent a great deal of her time roaming the country in advance of her husband, warning the neighbors of his approach. In the dead of night she could come to a cottage and announce that her husband was approaching. Then the shutters would be closed, the door barred and the master of the house would sit behind it with gun across his knees and wait until the maniac had passed.

### PREMATURE FOURTH AT FORT COLLINS

Fort Collins, June 22.—While en-

gaged in showing a customer how safe it was to handle fireworks and how little danger there was, James Brock, the proprietor of a drug store here, dropped a spark into a window filled with fireworks here this afternoon, starting a fire that caused a loss of \$2,000. The sentence was scarcely spoken before a skyrocket grazed his ear. The building and contents was almost completely destroyed.

### TRIAL IS POSTPONED

Grand Junction, June 22.—The trial of Steve Adams, charged with the murder of Arthur Collins, was begun in the district court today but was postponed for one week to enable the sheriff to secure 100 additional veniremen to fill the panel of jurors. The first legal fight in the case came when the defense objected to H. M. Hogg and James S. Carnahan as attorneys for the prosecution on the ground that they were not employed by the county but by private individuals. The prosecution showed that the attorneys were employed by the county and the objection of the defense was overruled.

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